

**AGENDA ITEM IX A**

**TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

**REPORT ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION  
FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

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#### **REPORT ON THE BLUE RIBBON COMMISSION FOR EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE**

##### **STAFF COMMENTS**

The Blue Ribbon Commission for Educational Excellence held its second 2006-2007 meeting on December 14, 2006 in the Governor's Press Room, State Capitol, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Members of the Commission were provided copies of their individual responses to questions discussed by members at the November 16, 2006 meeting and a copy of a document entitled "Areas of Special Education---Challenges and Best Practices Identified by Commission Members at November 16, 2006 Meeting." Commission members reviewed information in the document and agreed to focus their attention upon special education and reading during the next two years . Specifically, in 2006-07, the Commission will address data systems, special education teacher preparation, recruitment of special education teachers, and teacher preparation accountability system. During 2007-08, the Commission will address retention/support of special education teachers, identification/placement of special education students, and reading.

The objectives for the December 14, 2006 meetings were to obtain information from state experts pertaining to existing data in Louisiana and to identify questions pertaining to special education and the type of data needed to answer the questions. The commission members interacted with Michael Mayne (Louisiana Department of Education), Kim Kirkpatrick (Board of Regents), and Dr. George Noell (Louisiana State University and A&M College) as they identified types of data currently available in Louisiana and ways in which the data are being used. Commission members used the information generated from the speakers to identify questions that they would like to have answered using state data and identified other questions that they would like to have answered that would require the state to collect new types of data. The Commission will meet again on February 8, 2007.

**AGENDA ITEM IX B**

**TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

**EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION  
PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND  
EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

## **AGENDA ITEM IX B**

### **TEACHER EDUCATION INITIATIVES**

#### **EVALUATION OF REDESIGNED INITIAL TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS AND GRADUATE PROGRAMS FOR TEACHERS AND EDUCATIONAL LEADERS**

##### **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Redesigned alternate certification programs, regular undergraduate teacher preparation programs, graduate programs for teachers, and graduate programs for educational leaders were submitted to the Board of Regents and Board of Elementary and Secondary Education during November 2001 for Cycle One Evaluations, April 2002 for Cycle Two Evaluations, September 2002 for Cycle Three Evaluations, February 2003 for Cycle Four Evaluations, March 2004 for Cycle Five Evaluations, September 2004 for Cycle Six Evaluations, February 18, 2005 for Cycle Seven Evaluations, and June 2006 for Cycle Eight Evaluations. These programs were assessed by external evaluators and reports which contained the recommendations of the external evaluators were disseminated during January 2002, June 2002, December 2002, April 2003, April 2004, December 2004, May 2005, and September 2006.

##### **STAFF COMMENTS**

The BoR/BESE/LAICU Program Review Committee met on December 19, 2006 to review rejoinders submitted by Louisiana State University and A&M College, Grambling State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Southeastern Louisiana University, University of Louisiana at Lafayette, and University of Louisiana at Monroe. It was determined that all stipulations for concentrations had been addressed by some universities, and the concentrations for the degrees should be recommended for approval. However, additional information was needed to address stipulations for other concentrations, so universities were provided until January 19, 2007 to submit the additional information. It was determined that campuses who submitted additional information and successfully addressed remaining stipulations should be recommended for approval at the January 24, 2007 Academic and Student Affairs Committee meeting.

The BoR/BESE/LAICU Program Review Committee recommended approval several new degree programs. (See motion below.) In addition, the following new concentrations within existing Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction and Non-Master's/ Certification Only Alternate programs that have already been approved by the Board of Regents were considered:

*Louisiana Tech University:* Master of Education in Curriculum & Instruction - Early Interventionist (Birth to Five) & Visually Impaired.

*Southeastern Louisiana University:* Non-Master's/Certification-Only Alternate Program – Early Interventionist (Birth to Five).

*University of Louisiana at Lafayette:* Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction – Early Interventionist (Birth to Five).

*University of Louisiana at Monroe:* Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction – Early Interventionist (Birth to Five).

As these concentrations are to be located within existing degree programs, no action by the Board of Regents is required.

### ***STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS***

- 1. The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Early Interventionist (Birth to Five) (CIP Code: 13.1015) at Grambling State University.***
- 2. The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Master of Arts in Teaching in Early Interventionist (CIP Code: 13.1015) and Master of Arts in Teaching in Visually Impaired (CIP Code: 13.1009) at Louisiana Tech University.***
- 3. The staff recommends that the Academic and Student Affairs Committee grant approval for the Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Early Interventionist - Birth to Five (CIP Code: 13.1015), Master of Education in Special Education with a concentration in Educational Diagnostician (CIP Code: 13.1001), and Master of Arts in Teaching in Early Interventionist (CIP Code: 13.1015) at Southeastern Louisiana University.***